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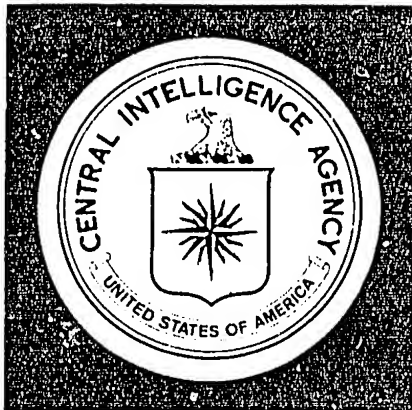
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Cease-Fire Developments

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Cease-Fire Developments



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SOUTH VIETNAMMilitary Action Increases in the Delta

Communist military activity intensified in the southernmost provinces on 15-16 May, with nearly 60 incidents of harassment and light shellings. More than half of the incidents including a five-round rocket attack directed at a division headquarters in the provincial capital occurred in troublesome Chuong Thien Province. The most significant incident to the north was a terrorist bombing in Quang Tin Province, which resulted in more than 50 casualties.

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More on Two Party Talks

[redacted] Major General Hoang Anh Tuan, who is to replace Tran Van Tra as permanent head of the PRG delegation to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, is not the most effective member of the team. His deputy, Vo Dong Giang, speaks with more authority and confidence and clearly exercises more power than Tuan.

Tuan, relatively unknown until his appointment to the TPJMC, has been "inept and unable to grasp the issues at hand." Giang, on the other hand, is a member of the NLF central committee and a former head of the NLF office in Havana. [redacted]

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[redacted] the appointment of Tuan to replace General Tra, who was one of the most important Vietnamese Communists in the South, probably means the Communists do not plan to do any serious negotiating in this forum in the near future. [redacted]

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LAOSLao Communist Delegation in Cuba

The Pathet Lao are becoming more active on the international circuits. Second-ranked Lao Communist leader Nouhak Phoumsavan and his delegation arrived in Havana from Moscow on 15 May. Nouhak's visit--the first by a high-ranking Pathet Lao leader--follows on a much publicized trip by a Cuban group to Sam Neua last winter. Nouhak presumably will formally open the permanent Pathet Lao office in Havana.

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